The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and includes other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 13, 1918.

WHOLE NO. 1530 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1940 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 20, NO. 32

FACING the FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The goblins are after John L. Lewis. He is getting awfully scared of the little men. There is no other way we can account for his fantastically secret manipulation of his puny, personal political puppet, Labor's Non-Partisan League.

The day after Eli Oliver resigned as director of the league, Lewis ordered all the locks changed in the league's suite of twelve rooms in the Earle Building at Washington. We haven't been snooping around there ourselves. This information comes to us by way of an article by Will Allen in the Washington Daily News.

According to Mr. Allen, O. L. Garrison, comptroller of the league, admitted the locks had been changed "because there was a lot of keys out." His didn't owe any significance to the action. But Mr. Allen dug deeper. He discovered, he says, that keys for the new locks were not distributed to any employe of the league who was regarded as a supporter of Sidney Hillman. And then came the payoff.

"Black-browed Lewis," writes Mr. Allen, "personally descended on the league's office to conduct the search that has practically demuded it of all staff. Not a single person identified with Sidney Hillman remains on the league's payroll here, it was learned."

Secret Society

Thus, in approved Communist conspiratorial fashion, Mr. Lewis is proceeding to make the league a secret society composed of a lot of "Yes" men. The word "No" is verboten in Soviet Russia, in Nazi Germany, in Fascist Italy, in the Communist Party in this country and in Labor's Non-Partisan League or in any other organization dominated by Lewis.

All this secret, high-handed stuff is rapidly getting Lewis the gate. He all but admitted it the other day in his speech before the CIO auto workers convention. He said:

"If the day should come, as it well may, when your support is withheld from me, I shall accept your judgment and no longer smoy you with my counsels or advice."

Mr. Lewis, that day has come. You predicted that President Roosevelt, if he ran for a third term, would go down to "ignominious defeat." The auto workers, a few days after your speech, enthusiastically endorsed Roosevelt for a third term.

Practically all of the CIO leaders are up in arms against you, Mr. Lewis, because of your slavish devotion to the Communist Party line, because of your high-and-mighty political policies and because of your adamant refusal to permit peace in the labor movement.

Until now, Mr. Lewis, you have been able to have your own way because you controlled the CIO purse-strings. The boys were scared to death of you. Now, you have become so ludicrous a public figure that they are laughing at you and daring to line up against you.

News About Newsmen

Disgust with the CIO brand of Communism is manifesting itself with particular force among the newspapermen in New York City who are washing their hands of the Red-dominated American Newspaper Guild and flocking in large numbers to the newly organized American Newswriters Association, chartered by the American Federation of Labor.

This local union, only a couple of weeks old, is making rapid strides. According to reports from New York, it has received, more than a hundred newspaper writers on the New York Times have joined already. Also the group has signed up and pledged a majority of the writers on the New York Daily Mirror. Organization is progressing rapidly on the New York Herald Tribune staff and among reporters working for other dailies in the big city.

This news doesn't surprise us in the least. Newspapermen in New York and other cities are a shrewd, hard-headed, discerning bunch. They are sick of being used as stooges by a Communist clique. They want their own union. They want to run it their own way for their own benefit. They do not want to belong to a union of scrubwomen and miscellaneous employees, much as they would like to help them. They do not want their union run by a group of Communists for the benefit of the Communist Party or the Stalin regime in Soviet Russia.

And they don't want a secret society like Labor's Non-Partisan League presuming to speak for them politically.

Drive to Wipe Out Anti-Labor Groups Planned by Pacific Coast A.F.L. Units

Portland, Ore.—Groundwork was laid for the concentrated effort on the Pacific Coast by joint conference of the three State labor federations held here.

The conference, arranged by Meyer L. Lewis, western director for the American Federation of Labor, brought together representatives of the Washington, Oregon and California State Federations, under official sanction of the three groups. The program and campaign effected by the conference will be put into action on the coast by the three organizations acting in unison and operating within their own areas.

The definite objective of the campaign will be the stabilization of labor and working conditions in subnormal areas where stiff opposition to labor exists; where organized effort for the purpose of elevating sub-standard wage and working conditions to an American level is being fought; and to coordinate all AFL activities so that the strength of the entire AFL movement can be brought to the aid of the weak spots.

Particular attention will be given to the so-called "black spots" of labor relations on the Coast.

Eastern Washington, where a promotional scheme is operating through organization of an employers group known as the Associated Employers, formed by professional promoters for the sole purpose of combatting legitimate organizational effort, will receive due attention.

Effort in the entire State of Oregon will be included in the campaign. Oregon has long been under the dominance of anti-labor influences with the result that the unions in that State have been driven hard and their treasuries constantly depleted by continuous operations, in order to exist. Of particular import in this instance is the gruelling battle being waged by the Oregon State Federation of Labor to disqualify the bitterly drastic and decidedly un-American labor relations law, passed in 1933 when California and Washington turned thumbs down on similar proposals.

Another and perhaps the most important focal point of action will be the immediate Southern California area, at present practically overrun by innumerable labor-fighting groups dominated by the ruthless Association "Farmers."

Most of these spots where pressure is used to keep working men and women subdued, are healthy, Lewis said. "The strength of the entire organized Farmers and their underling organizations at Ventura has brought a strong realization to us of the immediate need for concerted action. That is just what is going to be planned and accomplished by this conference."

Registration of Aliens In Nation To Begin at Post Offices Aug. 27

Washington, D. C.—The vast task of registering and fingerprinting the 4,600,000 aliens in the United States will begin Aug. 27 and is to be completed Dec. 26, Earl G. Harrison, director of registration, announced.

Voluntary appearance is expected from the great majority of the aliens, but, since registration is compulsory, those failing to comply will be sought, and on further refusal subjected to the penalties of the Alien Registration Act, six months in jail and a $1,000 fine.

Many complications are expected in administering the registration and fingerprinting and the penalties will be invoked only where the failure is "willful." Likewise only "willfully" false statements will be punished.

Mr. Harrison reiterated that the registration and fingerprinting carries no stigma, and that no "witch hunt" will result.

Two weeks before registration starts, sample forms will be available at all 45,000 postoffices. Aliens will take these home, fill them out, and bring or send them in when they appear at all the first and second class postoffices and those postoffices at all county seats.

At each of these 7,300 registration centers, designated Postoffice Department employes will ask the necessary questions and write down the answers by which the aliens will swear to the fullness of fingerprints will be forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for rejection in a separate file, but where it will be possible to check them against other records to discover criminal records or false statements of any kind.

Registration of fingerprints of free, yet already racketeers are offering to "help" the foreign-born for suitable fees.

In this connection Mr. Harrison pointed out that aliens need no aid from any one except the duly authorized officers at the postoffices.

AFL Workers Rout CIO In Toledo; Break Fake Strike and Save Own Jobs

Toledo, O.—Complete victory was scored by the embattled members of the American Federation of Labor in this city in a CIO attempt to raid their jurisdiction and take away their jobs.

Rallying to the cause unanimously and militantly, the A. F. of L. forces routed fake CIO picket lines and checkmated efforts to take over factory construction work from the building trades unions.

As the CIO is still threatening to import fifteen to twenty thousand men from Detroit to back up their own fake campaign, the A. F. of L. defense lines are still being held intact and are holding trade work under the city is donating twenty-five cents a week from his pay to the defense fund.

The attempted raid started with the picketing by the CIO of the City Auto Stamping Company plant, despite the fact that the Automobile Federation of Labor had won a Labor Board election in the plant and had negotiated a contract with the company last December. The purpose of the fake "strike" was to gain control of the operating plant and then force the company to use CIO United Construction Workers to build the company's new plant. After thus gaining a foothold, the CIO planned to force the Libbey-Owens-Ford Company to use their construction workers on a proposed $1,500,000 building program to supplant the A. F. of L. building tradesmen.

When the situation was made clear to them, the A. F. of L. building trades workers all over the city quit work and, with the aid of the Teamsters and the Metal Trades workers, came to the assistance of the loyal A. F. of L. workers in the City Auto Stamping Company plant. At one time more than 2,500 A. F. of L. men were lined up at the plant to protect the workers from CIO pickets. No violence took place.

After less than two weeks, the CIO gave up their fight and withdrew their pickets. Those men, who joined the CIO picket line, were forced to accept penalties and join the A. F. of L. before getting their jobs back.

A. F. of L. Organizer W. H. Whetro, who led the defense campaign, together with the Toledo Central Labor Council, said:

"This, no doubt, will convince everyone concerned that we mean business. We have our forces united for any eventuality and the American Federation of Labor can well be proud of its members in Toledo.

"We expect to fight the CIO in any attempt they may make to invade our jurisdiction anywhere. We intend to make them respect us and leave us alone.

"We say to the workers of the nation affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, especially building tradesmen, unite and fight and the CIO won't be able to interfere with you."

44-Hour Week Awarded Thousands Of Railway Express Agency Employes

Washington, D. C.—A reduction in work hours from forty-eight to forty-four per week, without reduction in compensation," for between 25,000 and 30,000 employes of the Railway Express Agency was recommended by an emergency board appointed by the President to investigate a threatened strike.

No estimate was made of the cost of putting the reduced hours into effect. The board was appointed on July 10, when the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks voted to strike for a 44-hour week after negotiations with the Express Agency had failed to result in an agreement. The board consisted of John P. Devaney, former Chief Justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court; chairman; Dexter M. Keezer, president of Reed College, Portland, Oregon, and Harry A. Millis, professor of economics and sociology, University of Chicago.

The strike which the union was prompted, the board found, by refusal of the company to grant a forty-four-hour week, by refusal to extend this work week to its vehicle employes in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Newark, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco and Chicago," who are represented by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The Emergency Board found that this precipitated a problem involving the entire Express industry. It found that the forty-four-hour week were to be extended to all express workers.

As a compromise, it recommended that the forty-four-hour week be granted all workers except employes in the accounting division and general offices, and the train messengers, where hours are not easily controlled.

While admitting that the extension of the forty-four-hour week to the two groups of Railway Express Company employes to which the board found it must be extended would create a problem at hand "will add materially to the operating costs of the Agency," the board did not accept the view of the Agency that it would be unable to meet the financial burden imposed.

"There is nothing in the record which demonstrates that the Agency cannot meet this cost while there is much in the record which persuasively suggests that it would be a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy not to meet it," the board said. "This assertion is made on the assumption that the management of any employe would cooperate to the fullest extent possible in extending the forty-four-hour week with a maximum of economy and efficiency, and the finding in it should be extended as indicated is made with the expectation that there will be such cooperation."

Regardless, however, of operating results which cannot be fully foreseen, the board feels that the Agency has incurred a clear obligation to make the extension of the forty-four-hour week as outlined. In terms of prevailing national policy, the board practice the obligation imposed is not excessive."

At the hearings held in Washington the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks was represented by its president, George M. Harrison, and Frank H. Mulholland, counsel. The Express Agency was represented by Albert M. Hartung, vice president, chairman and counsel.

Larger Benefits For Rail Jobless Provided in Bill Passed by Senate

Washington, D. C.—The Senate passed without a roll call the bill sponsored by Senator Wagner (D.) of New York amending the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act to provide larger benefits and more prompt benefits for unemployed railroad workers.

Benefits are not that under the present law over 80,000 jobless railroad employes have received much less than they would have received under the State unemployment compensation laws, Senator Wagner said that if the new bill had been in effect last year unemployed railroad workers would have received $25,000,000 instead of $15,000,000.

"The waiting period," under the amendments he explained, "is reduced from 15 days to seven days, and the time intervening between the first day of unemployment and receipt of the first benefit check is reduced from 28 days to 21 days."

"The range of benefit rates per 14 days of unemployment is increased from $12.25 to $21 under the present law, to $17.50 to $40 under this bill.

"The maximum duration of benefit payments in any year is increased from 80 days to 130 days."

"Benefit payments not used in one year can be carried over to another year, thus providing benefits for as much as 50 days of unemployment, in addition to the 100-day annual maximum. This amendment is especially important for railroad workers whose employment is not seasonal, and who are unemployed for long periods of time when they become unemployed at all."

The passage of the bill is now up to the House of Representatives, where it was introduced by Congressman Robert Crosser of Ohio and referred to the House Committee on Foreign and Interstate Commerce.

429 Dropped From WPA Pay Rolls In Ouster of Reds and Bundists

Washington, D. C.—The WPA has dismissed 429 workers who failed to sign an affidavit that they are not members of the Communist Party, the German-American Bund or are not aliens or affiliated with organizations advocating overthrow of the Government by force.

The action was mandatory under provisions of the 1941 Relief Act, effective July 1, which required that Communists and Bund members could not be paid from WPA funds. Aliens and members of organizations advocating Government overthrow are excluded under previous law.

WPA Commissioner Harrington said some persons may have dropped from the rolls, for other reasons, knowing that they could not sign an affidavit, and some false affidavits may have been executed.

In New York City, WPA authorities have dismissed fifteen persons who signed the affidavit, on the ground that their statements were false.

News Briefs

NEWSPAPER GUILD HIT BY LOCAL IN MEMPHIS

Memphis, Tenn.—The Memphis newspaper guild, host to the recent American Newspaper Guild convention, has a record as spawning the national organization on the question of denouncing communism, fascism and nazism by name.

The national convention tabled a resolution condemning the three by name and instead adopted one denouncing "subversive movements." The Memphis guild resolved as follows:

"The Newspaper Guild of Memphis considers that communism, fascism and nazism are subversive forces in the United States. We have no interest in the views or feelings of those who may resent having communism, nazism and fascism called by name, nor do we know of any situation, within the American Newspaper Guild calling for sidestepping this simple fact."

RAIL "COMPANY UNION" HEADED FOR GRAVEYARD

Washington, D. C.—The National Mediation Board ordered an election for collective bargaining representation to be held among the 1,000 clerks men employed by the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. The Board acted after an investigation into claims that the shopcraft unions affiliated with the Railway Employes Department of the American Federation of Labor had secured authorization cards or membership applications from a big majority of the shopmen.

The drive to oust the "company union" is led by the Railway Carmen, Machinists, Boilermakers, Sheet Metal Workers and Electrical Workers. During the past two years the Railway Clerks, Maintenance of Way Employes and other A. F. of L. units have established the right to representation on the D. & H. It is believed that the coming poll will eliminate the "dummy" railroad union.

BOILERMAKERS START ORGANIZATION DRIVE

Chicago, Ill.—A militant organization drive in ship-building and other fields was developed at a three-day conference here of fifty general chairmen of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and an equal number of business representatives from contract and construction locals of the Brotherhood.

Full support of the national defense program was voted. A resolution was sent to President Roosevelt informing him that the services of the Brotherhood were at his command and lauding the administration for its position against breakdown of wages, hours or other gains won through collective bargaining or legislation.

WAGE INCREASE PACT WON BY GAS WORKERS UNION

Granite City, Ill.—Renewal of the union's contract with the Laclede Power and Light Company, with wage increases of five cents an hour for all employes was announced by W. D. Williams, secretary of Gas and Coke Workers Union No. 19256.

Provisions in the contract respecting working conditions, seniority and vacations were retained.

COURTS CAN ENFORCE ARBITRATION AWARDS

San Francisco, Cal.—In a precedent-making decision, the State Supreme Court has ruled that it has power to enforce an arbitration award made pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement. The case involved the Int'l Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and the David Shann Corp. of Los Angeles. The latter sought the enjoinment of an award by Arbitrator Anthony O'Rourke, but the superior court held that it had no power to enforce arbitration provisions of collective bargaining agreements. The ruling was reversed by the supreme court.

SHOPCRAFT EMPLOYES SET SAFETY RECORD

Paducah, Ky.—Over 1,100 employes of the Paducah shops of the Illinois Central have set what is declared to be the greatest safety record in railroad history.

They have operated the shops a full year—from July 30, 1939, to July 31, 1940—without a single injury serious enough to be reported to the Interstate Commerce Commission. They keep a man off his job for more than three days.

WEST VIRGINIA REDS GET COURT SUMMONS

Charleston, W. Va.—The Communist party, with a West Virginia 1932 Presidential vote of 444, is under orders to appear in court and explain how it obtained 8,640 signatures to a petition to put it on the 1940 ballot.

The American Legion is pursuing the answer, by way of an injunction suit in Kanawha Circuit Court (Charleston), on the claim that false hoods of various kinds were told to get unsuspecting citizens to sign the petition.

Green Against Draft Unless President Shows It Is Necessary For Defense

Opposes Burke-Wadsworth Bill and Demands Labor Safeguards in Any Conscription Act.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green announced that the American Federation of Labor opposes the Burke-Wadsworth Bill, providing for compulsory military service.

If this nation is threatened with invasion, Mr. Green said, it is the duty of our Government "to formulate a plan designed to mobilize adequate power for national defense and, through the President, make known to Congress and the country the man-power need of the nation."

Under such circumstances, Mr. Green declared, American labor will "support the organization and creation of an army large and strong enough to meet national requirements."

As the first step, Mr. Green suggested that voluntary enlistment be given a full trial and an effort made in this "American way" to build up an army of 1,500,000 men.

But, if it becomes apparent that compulsory military service is necessary, Mr. Green cautioned, such legislation should embody within it provisions which would adequately protect the economic and industrial status of working men and women.

The text of Mr. Green's statement follows:

"Developments which have taken place in the war situation in Europe have served to arouse feelings of apprehension among all classes of people and a consciousness of the need of the formation of a constructive, practical national defense policy. This state of mind is reflected in the action which Congress took when it appropriated large sums of money for the construction of naval vessels, airplanes, tanks and war materials. While public opinion showed its opposition to the involvement of our Nation in the European conflict it responded most favorably to the need for home defense and adequate preparation against any attempt of invasion by an aggressor nation.

"The American Federation of Labor has cooperated and will continue to cooperate with the Federal Government in the formation and execution of its preparedness plans. We have expounded a philosophy which proclaims that loyalty to labor unions presupposes loyalty to our Government. This is both primary and basic. Labor, as represented by the American Federation of Labor, will stand immovable in its defense of our Government, of our democratically institutionalized way of life, of freedom and justice, provided for in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

"In pledging universal support the men and women of Labor accept the assurance of our Government that social, industrial and economic standards set up and recognized by the Government will be maintained and, in turn, they assume, in full measure, their responsibility for service of the highest order both in industry and for the Nation.

"The full use of our material resources and the construction of naval vessels, airplanes, tanks, guns and war material is but a part of national preparedness. Full realization of any goal set for the production of material to be used in the creation of an adequate national defense would avail nothing unless such achievement would be supplemented by the creation of an army large enough and strong enough to man our defenses and to resist successfully any attempt by any enemy, no matter how large or powerful it might be, to set foot upon our Homeland. We are firmly of the opinion that our Government should formulate a plan designed to mobilize adequate man power for national defense and through the President make known to Congress and the country the man power need of the Nation. Under such circumstances, it is my opinion that American labor will support the organization and creation of an army large and strong enough to meet national requirements.

"We do not regard the Burke-Wadsworth Bill, which provides for compulsory military service, as a well-planned measure. We cannot, therefore, give it our unqualified approval at this time.

"If it becomes apparent that legislation providing for compulsory military service is necessary such legislation should embody provisions which will adequately protect the economic and industrial status of working men and women. The following stipulations and safeguards should be incorporated therein:

"First of all, working men and women whose services may be given to our country should be assured that they will not be called upon individually or collectively to engage in a foreign war or to send abroad to become involved in foreign wars. An absolute guarantee should be recorded in them that their services would be used only for home defense, for the protection of the Western Hemisphere, our homes, our Homeland and our governmental institutions.

"Secondly, the positions of workers must be protected. They should be guaranteed a return to the positions they occupy when they have served the time required for military training as may be required by law.

"Thirdly, the compensation allowed, while engaged in military training, should be sufficient to provide for the maintenance of a standard of living approximating that already established for those dependent upon them.

"Fourthly, the cost of transportation incurred by those who are a part of the Army and Navy, from their homes to the places where their services are utilized, should be borne by the Government. This should include all industrial workers called and unskilled, who are called upon to serve in war-manufacturing industries remotely located from their homes and home communities.

"The American Federation of Labor will give support to compulsory military training service legislation when such action becomes necessary in order to defend, protect and preserve America. However, in providing an adequate defense for defensive purposes it should be kept clearly understood that A voluntary enlistment program should be launched by the Government designed to create an Army of one million and a half men. This would be putting voluntary action before compulsion. American labor would respond to such a program whole-heartedly and enthusiastically."

New York State Council of National Defense Appointed by Gov. Lehman

Albany, N. Y.—Governor Lehman, in line with the national preparedness effort, appointed a State Council of National Defense to advise him on all matters pertaining to the national defense program as applied to the State of New York.

The council, with the Governor as chairman, includes Lieutenant Governor Poletti, recently named coordinator of State defense activities, as one of seven members. Others are Thomas M. Debevoise of the Niagara-Hudson Company, Niagara Falls; F. E. Williamson, president of the New York Central Railroad; Col. M. Edward Cahn of the Lehman Brothers, New York, a member of the War Industries Board from 1917 to 1919; Walter K. Sulzer, vice president of the Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester; Mrs. Anna M. Rosenberg, regional director of the Social Security Board; Gustave O. Strebel, president of the New York State Industrial Union Council; Dr. Carl E. Ladd, dean of the New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, and Thomas A. Morgan of New York, president of the Sperry Corporation.

CORPORATE PROFITS SOAR; HOW ABOUT WAGES?

New York, N. Y.—Corporate reports for the first half of 1940 have shown a sharp upswing in profits, indicating revised Federal levies on business earnings may yield the Treasury the richest harvest since 1918 and 1919.

Net income reported by industrial concerns for the first six months reported combined net profit of $648,285,000, compared with $409,123,000 in the initial half of 1939, a gain of fifty-eight per cent, according to a tabulation by the National City Bank of New York.

OPERA SINGERS GAIN WAGE BOOST CONTRACT

New York, N. Y.—Opera singers and ballet dancers will receive wide benefits under a 3-year agreement, signed by the Company, Guild of Musical Artists, the Metropolitan Opera Assn. and the Chicago Opera Co.

A sliding scale shop is provided. All engagements contracts drawn up between the artists and the management must be on union forms. The contract sets the minimum weekly salaries of $75 to $150 for singers and $40 for dancers. Limits the number of performances during each week and for the first time provides arbitration machinery.